

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sleeping bag comprising an elongate shell defining an inner volume sized and shaped to receive a user therein, the elongate shell having a head end, a foot end, opposite sides extending longitudinally of the shell, an inner layer, an outer layer comprising at least one stretchable panel of resilient sheet material adapted for resilient deformation when stretched outwardly by a user in said inner volume, and insulating material between the inner layer and the outer layer.

2. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein said shell further comprises an overlying portion adapted to overlie said user and an underlying portion adapted to underlie said user, and wherein the at least one stretchable panel is located in the overlying portion between the opposite sides of the shell.

3. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 2 wherein the at least one stretchable panel is located in areas of the shell generally corresponding to shoulders and elbows of the user.

4. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 3 wherein the at least one stretchable panel comprises a pair of stretchable panels located adjacent opposite sides of the shell in areas generally corresponding to shoulders and elbows of the user.

5. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 2 wherein the at least one stretchable panel is located in an area of the shell generally corresponding to at least one knee of the user.

6. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 5 wherein the at least one stretchable panel extends from one side of the shell to an opposite side of the shell over an

area generally corresponding to two knees of the user.

7. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein the at least one stretchable panel comprises a plurality of stretchable panels located in areas of the shell generally corresponding to shoulders, elbows and knees of the user.

8. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 7 wherein the at least one stretchable panel comprises a first stretchable panel located adjacent one side of the shell in an area corresponding to a left shoulder and elbow of a user in said inner volume, a second stretchable panel located adjacent an opposite side of the shell in an area corresponding to a right shoulder and elbow of said user, and at least a third stretchable panel located in an area generally corresponding to the knees of the user and extending from adjacent one side of the shell to adjacent the opposite side of the shell.

9. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein the outer layer further comprises non-stretchable material in areas bordering the at least one stretchable panel.

10. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein the shell has a transverse centerline defining an upper half of the shell and a lower half of the shell, and a central longitudinal centerline defining a first longitudinal half of the shell and a second longitudinal half of the shell.

11. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 10 wherein the at least one stretchable panel is located in the lower half of the shell and spans from adjacent one side of the shell to adjacent the opposite side of the shell, and wherein the panel extends approximately the

length of the lower half of the shell adjacent opposite sides of the shell and extends a shorter length generally midway between opposite sides of the shells.

12. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 10 wherein the at least one stretchable panel comprises a first stretchable panel located entirely within the upper half of the shell and within the first longitudinal half of the shell and extending from one side of the shell toward said longitudinal centerline, and a second stretchable panel located entirely within the upper half of the shell and within the second longitudinal half of the shell and extending from the opposite side of the shell toward said longitudinal centerline.

13. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 10 wherein the at least one stretchable panel comprises a first stretchable panel located entirely within the upper half of the shell and within the first longitudinal half of the shell and extending from one side of the shell toward said longitudinal centerline, a second stretchable panel located entirely within the upper half of the shell and within the second longitudinal half of the shell and extending from the opposite side of the shell toward said longitudinal centerline, and a third stretchable panel located in the lower half of the shell spanning from adjacent one side of the shell to adjacent the opposite side of the shell, said third panel extending approximately the length of the lower half of the shell adjacent opposite sides of the shell and extending a shorter length generally midway between opposite sides of the shells.

14. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein the at least one stretchable panel comprises LYCRA®.

15. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1

wherein the inner layer of the shell comprises a stretchable material.

16. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein the insulating material between the inner layer and the outer layer of the shell has a greater volume in areas corresponding to the at least one stretchable panel to accommodate stretching.

17. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 2 wherein the insulation material in the overlying portion of the shell is attached to the inner and outer layers of the shell using offset stitch-lines, said offset stitch lines penetrating only one of the inner layer and outer layer and thereby inhibiting the entry of ambient air into the inner volume of the shell along the stitch-lines, and wherein the insulation is not stitched to the at least one stretchable panel.

18. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 1 wherein the shell tapers toward the foot end of the shell to provide the user a snug fit.

19. A sleeping bag comprising an elongate shell defining an inner volume sized and shaped to receive a user therein, the elongate shell having opposite sides extending longitudinally of the shell, an inner layer, and an outer layer comprising stretchable zones defined by stretchable sheet material and non-stretchable zones defined by non-stretchable sheet material.

20. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 19 wherein the stretchable zones are located in areas of the shell generally corresponding to shoulders and elbows of the user.

21. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 19

wherein the stretchable zones are located in areas of the shell generally corresponding to at least one knee of the user.

22. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 19 wherein the stretchable zones are located in areas of the shell generally corresponding to shoulders, elbows and knees of the user.

23. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 19 wherein the inner layer of the shell comprises a stretchable material.

24. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 19 wherein the shell further comprises an insulating material between the inner layer and the outer layer of the shell, said insulating material having a greater volume in areas corresponding to the stretchable zones to accommodate stretching.

25. The sleeping bag as set forth in claim 19 wherein the shell tapers toward the foot end of the shell to provide the user a snug fit.